

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A composite material comprising an assemblage of ultrahard core-shell grains fused-bonded together throughout the composite material, wherein the core-shell grains have a core-shell structure in which the core is comprised of a first set of particles of a polycrystalline ultrahard material and the shell is comprised of a second set of particles of a polycrystalline ultrahard material different in particle size or composition from the first set of particles, and said grains are fused-bonded together throughout the composite material by having the shells of said grains directly bonded together throughout the composite material.

23. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 22, wherein one of the core or shell particles are comprised of polycrystalline diamond while another of the core or shell particles are comprised of polycrystalline cubic boron nitride.

24. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 22, wherein one of the core or shell particles have a finer particle size than another of the core or shell particles.

25. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 22, wherein one of the core or shell particles have a composition different than another of the core or shell particles.

26. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 24, wherein the fine-grained particles have a size in the range of about 0.1 to about 20 microns.

27. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 24, wherein the coarser particles have a size in the range of about 10 to about 100 microns.

28. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 22, wherein the core and shell particles are made of the same type of polycrystalline ultrahard material, and the particle size of the core particles differs from that of the shell particles by about 5 to about 70 microns.

29. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 24, wherein one of the core or shell particles are comprised of polycrystalline diamond while another of the core or shell particles are comprised of polycrystalline cubic boron nitride.

30. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 22, wherein the core and shell particles are each made from mixtures of two types of polycrystalline ultrahard materials, wherein said mixtures are different from each other.